



Project Acronym:	COPILOT
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COPILOT Open Call 3 Part 2



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Contents

1	THE COPILOT OBJECTIVES	3
2	SCOPE OF THE OPEN CALL 3 – PART 2	4
2.1	Objectives and requirements	4
2.1	Eligible applicants	4
3	FUNDING PROGRAMME	4
4	CALL DOCUMENTATION AND COMMUNICATION	4

1 The COPILOT objectives

The primary goal of the COPILOT project is to establish a reference database and network of open access pilot and demo infrastructures for the European bioeconomy, facilitating the rapid market introduction of biobased innovations. Additionally, the project seeks to unite Infrastructures, Innovators (users of the infrastructures), and Enablers (investors, finance actors, market actors, clusters & incubators, public authorities, and large companies) into a dynamic community. This community will collaborate to create the database and platform, develop and test a business plan to ensure the platform's sustainability. Given the high costs and specialized expertise required for pilot and demo equipment, open access infrastructures are the most cost-effective and efficient way to support the market deployment of biobased, industry-driven innovations. In alignment with the European Bioeconomy Strategy and Action Plan, COPILOT will create an open access pilot and demo database within a self-sustaining platform by:

- Leveraging experiences and achievements from past pioneering EU projects (Pilots4U and Bioeconomy Venture).
- Encouraging co-creation dynamics within the community to develop a tailored platform for users' needs. This will include engagement and participation in COPILOT activities via three Open Calls (OC). OC1, OC2, OC3 Part 1 and OC3 – Pitch Perfect are already concluded. **This document provides the relevant information for applications for OC3 Part 2 dedicated for the (pilot and demonstration infrastructures) PDIs study visits scheduled in 2026.**
- Providing key services, training, and matchmaking opportunities to foster collaborations within the community. These efforts aim to facilitate clearer and faster access to bioprocess scale-up in the EU for Innovators and Enablers. This will be done in close collaboration with the entire consortium, which consists of a strong pool of bioeconomy experts, ensuring the involvement of all relevant EU regions to maximize the initiative's outreach.

The **overall budget** dedicated to financing third parties within the open calls framework of the COPILOT project is **€200.000**.

The community, created as a result of the COPILOT project and its open calls, will form a scale-up ecosystem composed of three groups: innovators, infrastructures, and enablers. All members are committed to scale-up capacity building and bioeconomy growth. These three groups will be integrated into a unified community on a platform, with exchanges, connections, and matchmaking facilitated through meetups and events. These activities aim to build synergies and foster cross-collaboration.

To achieve these goals, the project partners have decided to use the Financial Support for Third Parties (FSTP) mechanism to engage with the respective groups and stakeholders. Eligible and selected entities (details provided below) will be required to perform specific actions to receive funding.

2 Scope of the Open call 3 – Part 2

2.1 Objectives and requirements

Voucher Networking Programme (OC3) is a dedicated travel voucher program for relevant stakeholders to finance their participation in COPILOT project events/events organised by the COPILOT consortium (such as open days at the pilot and demonstration infrastructures, Pitch Perfect, BIOKET, IFIB, etc.).

Vouchers funded under the track OC3 Part 2 are dedicated for the PDIs study visits in 2026. 30 vouchers will be distributed.

It is important to note that activities already financed by other grants are ineligible for COPILOT funding, in adherence to the principle of no double funding.

The payment of each voucher will happen **after the delivery of travel report** detailing the activities carried out (a template of the report is provided in the documentation kit). These reports will provide the necessary justifications for COPILOT to proceed with the contracted payments.

2.1 Eligible applicants

The COPILOT - OC3 Part 2 is open to:

- **bioeconomy innovators:** start-ups, spin-offs, scale-ups and SMEs and
- **enablers in the bioeconomy domain:** investors, research and technology organisations, incubators, clusters, public authorities / policy makers responsible for bio-economy sector and R&I, corporates.

Additional requirements:

- Applicants that received funding under the COPILOT OC1, OC2, OC3 Part 1, OC3 – Pitch Perfect cannot apply to OC3 Part 2.
- Applicants can only receive/win one voucher.
- Only entities located more than 300 km from the location of the pilot and demo infrastructure organising the study visit are eligible to apply.
- COPILOT consortium wants to ensure that at least 15% of underrepresented regions receive the voucher. Therefore, 5 vouchers will be reserved for applicants from Central & Eastern European countries¹

3 Funding programme

The COPILOT OC3 Part 2 opening date: 15th October 2025, deadline: 15th December 2025 (17:00 CET)

After the submission deadline, COPILOT will initiate the evaluation and selection stage, consisting of an internal evaluation. The internal evaluation will check all submitted applications against the defined eligibility criteria. Applications that do not meet the criteria will be notified and receive a rejection letter. The selected applications will be notified to sign a commitment agreement with the COPILOT coordinator (Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant) and COPILOT treasury (F6S). The applications that will be kept on a reserve list, will be notified.

4 Call documentation and communication

The call documentation is available at the [COPILOT project website](#).

Any official correspondence connected with OC3 can be conducted at copilot@f6s.com.